

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: SHEVARDNADZE IS STILL ON THE JOB

REF: MOSCOW 10228

1. SUMMARY. TWO RECENT SPEECHES BY GEORGIAN FIRST SECRETARY SHEVARDNADZE INDICATE HE IS STILL ON THE JOB, BUT THERE ARE SIGNS HE MAY LACK THE ENTHUSIASTIC BACKING OF MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. SHEVARDNADZE'S FIRST MAJOR APPEARANCE AFTER THE JUNE 27 CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECREE ON GEORGIA WAS (JUDGING FROM THE GEORGIAN NEWSPAPER ("ZARYA VOSTOKA") AT THE

RUSTAVI METAL WORKS ON JULY 7, WHERE HE CALLED FOR GREATER DISCIPLINE THROUGHTOUT THE REPUBLIC. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS LENGTHY ADDRESS TO THE LOCAL PARTY MEMBERS, PRINTED IN FULL IN ZARYA VOSTOKA JULY 9:

--THE (JUNE 27) CC DECREE WAS ADOPTED AT THE PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CC COMRADE L. I. BREZHNEV, AND SHOWS THE WISE, LENINIST, BUSINESSLIKE, CONCRETE LEADERSHIP OF THE CCNBUTS# POLITBURO, AND LEONID I'LICH PERSONALLY VISTED VIS THXFG# FRATBANAL REPUBLICS;

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--"WE MUST BASICALLY RECONSTRUCT ALL OUR WORK IN STRENGTHENING DISCIPLINE AND LEGALITY IN THE REPUBLIC; ALL COLLECTIVES MUST HAVE COMPLEX PLANS IN THIS FIELD. THIS IS OUR BASIC TASK."

--THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE WAS TO ESTABLISH "ELEMENTARY ORDER" EVERYWHERE; WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO "DEEPEN STRUGGLE" FOR INSTILLING DISCIPLINE IN SPHERES NOT YET TOUCHED;

--EARLIER WE WORKED TO STRENGTHEN DISCIPLINE AMONG CADRES AT HIGH AND MIDDLE LEVELS, WE MUST NOW EXTEND THIS EFFORT TO EACH MEMBER OF SOCIETY;

--"WE REJECT DISCIPLINE BASED UPON ANIMAL FEAR. HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER AS OUR BASIC METHOD THE CORRECT COMBINATION OF EDUCATIONAL--AND, WHEN NECESSARY--COMPULSORY MEASURES FOR INSTILLING IN OUR CITIZENS THE SPIRIT OF DISCIPLINE."

3. THE TUSTAVI WORKERS THEN CALLED UPON ALL GEORGIAN WORKERS TO SHOW MORE DISCIPLINE, ALONG THE LINES EXPOUNDED BY SHEVARDNADZE. CURIOUSLY, HOWEVER, THE TEXT OF THE APPEAL, AS WELL AS A GEORGIAN CC DECREE APPROVING IT (BOTH PUBLISHED IN ZARYA VOSTOKA JULY 13) SAID NOTHING ABOUT SHEVARDNADZE'S MAJOR SPEECH. A JULY 15 ZARYA VOSTOKA

EDITORIAL ON THE RUSTAVI INITIATIVE ALSO WAS SILENT ABOUT THE FIRST SECRETARY AND HIS JULY 7 ADDRESS.

4. ACCORDING TO "PRAVDA" JULY 26, SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSED A TWO-DAY GEORGIAN CC PLENUM WHICH PRESUMABLY MET JULY 24 AND 25. HOWEVER, "PRAVDA'S" LENGTHY SUMMARY OF THE MEETING DEVOTED ONLY ONE PARAGRAPH TO SHEVARDNADZE, WHO WAS PARAPHRASED ONLY AS LAUDING THE JUNE 27 CPSU CC DECREE. AS WITH "ZARYA VOSTOKA", "PRAVDA" DID NOT DNG#

ABOUT SHEVARDNADZE'S RUSTAVI SPEECH AND HIS CALL FOR INTENSIFIED DISCIPLINE.
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5. COMMENT. THIS APPARENT DEEMPHASIS OF SHEVARDNADZE'S PERSONAL ROLE AS GEORGIA'S NUMBER ONE LEADER SUGGESTS THAT HIS STANDING WITH MOSCOW MAY BE TENUOUS. "ZARYA VOSTOKA'S" ACCOUNT OF THE LATEST GEORGIAN CC PLENUM, WHICH HAS NOT YET REACHED US, MAY HELP CLARIFY THIS MURKY PICTURE.
MAOLOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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